

In twenty-one nests of *C. splendens* in which a Koel managed to lay during the course of the present study, sixteen times she laid her first egg after the crow had laid her first, thrice after the crow had laid two, and twice after the crow had laid three of her eggs. In all the three nests of *C. macrorhynchos*, the Koel laid after the first egg had been deposited by the crow.

The maximum number of Koel eggs found in a single crow's nest was observed to be three, though previous workers sometimes came across as many as seven (Jacob 1915), eleven (Abdulali 1931), and thirteen (Baker 1934).

I have not, so far, come across an instance of a Koel's egg being laid in a newly completed but empty crow's nest, although as many as two (Cardew in Hume 1890: 396) and eleven (Abdulali 1931) Koel's eggs and none of the crow's have been observed in a crow's nest in the past. I shall be extremely grateful to any reader who would be kind enough to inform me if he comes across a Koel's egg in a freshly constructed but empty crow's nest.

ZOOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA,
WESTERN REGIONAL STATION,
1182/2, F. C. ROAD,
POONA-5,
July 27, 1966.

B. S. LAMBA

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6. OCCURRENCE OF THE BROWN FLYCATCHER (*MUSCICAPA LATIROSTRIS* RAFFLES) IN THE GIR FOREST

In March this year while bird watching at Sasan, Gir Sanctuary, in the company of Yuvaraj Shri Shivraj Kumar of Jasdan, we saw a brown and inconspicuous bird which was identified as a Brown Flycatcher by the Yuvaraj. The previous Monsoon had been very poor and almost all the Nullahs were bone-dry. Most of the birds seen by us, including the Brown Flycatcher, were concentrated around

a small pool of ten to twelve sq. ft. area beneath the shade of great trees in the otherwise dry bed of Kapuria River, some four miles from Sasan Rest House. As far as I am aware this species has not been recorded earlier from the Gir.

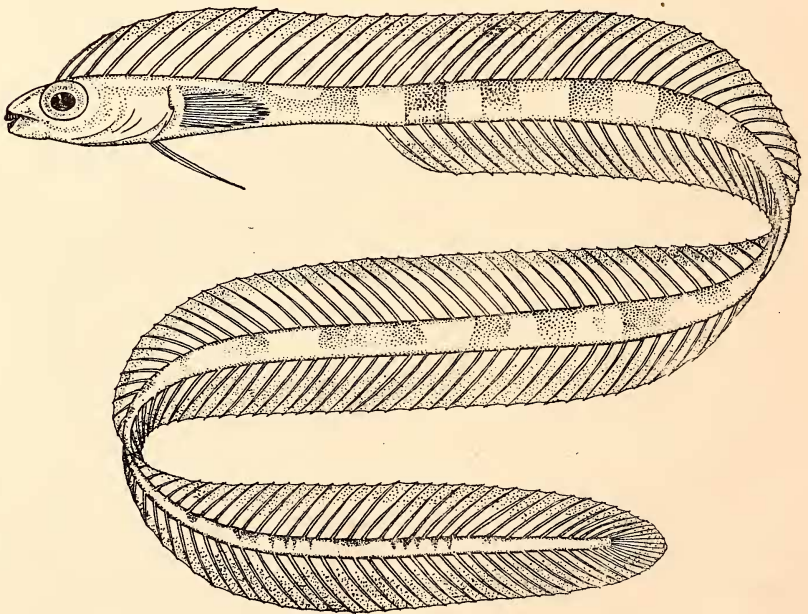
3, KAMAR VILLA,
OPP. MAHENDRA GHAT,
MORVI (SAURASHTRA),
July 21, 1966.

LALSINH M. RAOL

7. ON A RARE BLENNID FISH *XIPHASIA SETIFER*
SWAINSON FROM THE MADRAS COAST

(With two text-figures)

In September 1965 the junior author made extensive collections of fish from the Madras coast and also visited the fish markets in Madras to examine the fish catches brought to them. At Royapuram market on 11 September he procured an eel-like fish which appeared very curious and interesting. On his return to Calcutta the fish was



TEXT-FIG. 1. Lateral view of *Xiphasia setifer* Swainson.